

SPRING 2021



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

City of Brooklyn— Moving Forward. Together.

We are excited to introduce our new logo for the City of Brooklyn. The logo reflects our commitment to being a connected community. The design is modern, clean, simple and grounded in our collective history. The “Connected B” icon symbolizes our community coming together and moving forward on a unified path toward

a promising future. The branding program evolved from a resident-involved process that pinpointed the common denominators touching the city’s diverse stakeholders.

The city will be incorporating the new Brooklyn logo into social media pages and everyday items. In the future, you will see the logo and other branding elements incorporated throughout the city in items ranging from banners to gateway signs.

The new logo and other brand elements are also featured prominently on the redesigned city website. In addition to a refreshed design, the new website also includes user-friendly features and navigation. Both the Building Department and Recreation Department have new webpages allowing users easier access

to information. Please take some time to look around the new website at brooklynohio.gov.

The Master Plan is complete and the final version was unanimously adopted by City Council at their February 8, 2021 meeting. This Plan will help guide our city’s development and decision-making over the next decade. To read or learn more about the process please visit countyplanning.us/projects/brooklyn-master-plan/. As you will read in this edition of Brooklyn News, there are many projects happening throughout the city that will benefit our community. I am proud of the work being done by my administration as we keep Brooklyn Moving Forward. Together. ●

Mayor Katie Gallagher

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New Grant to Assist With Recycling Efforts

Recycle Right Brooklyn will be a project funded by a grant through the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District that reduces the contamination in the curbside recycling stream by providing direct feedback to residents. Contamination is a critical issue that threatens the future of curbside recycling and impacts the budgets of cities and villages. In early 2020, the City of Cleveland notified Brooklyn that they would no longer accept our recyclables—a move that would force us from a position of receiving revenue for our recyclables to being required to pay for the disposal of our recyclables. We received quotes that ranged from \$52.75 per ton to \$100 per ton, plus a contamination fee of \$75 per ton. Although we are paying at the low end of the range, we are now driving 200 miles per week to dispose of our recyclables.

A process called **cart tagging** will be done over an eight-week period beginning on June 7. We will hire temporary, seasonal workers who will examine the contents of residents' recycling carts, looking for contaminants, for four consecutive weeks. The carts of residents who are not recycling correctly will be tagged with an **"OOPS" tag**, which will provide information on what needs to be corrected. Their cart will be rolled back, so the driver knows not to collect that cart. They will be instructed to correct the issues and place their cart out for collection the following week. If, on the other hand, they have recycled correctly, the message on the tag will be **"good job, keep it up,"** indicating that they are recycling correctly. **An informational letter will be mailed to homes shortly.**

As the first city in Cuyahoga County to implement mandatory curbside recycling (and only the second in the State of Ohio), we have been a leader in the recycling field from the start. This is a very timely issue, and we believe this project will serve as a demonstration project for other communities in Cuyahoga County. ●



KEEP BROOKLYN
BEAUTIFUL

A KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

Community Clean-Ups!

Would you like to help Keep Brooklyn Beautiful? It's as easy as volunteering for two hours on a Saturday or Sunday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. Locations will be announced. Contact Andy Celcherts at acelcherts@brooklynohio.gov or 216-548-7644 and Meg Ryan Shockey at mryanshockey@brooklynohio.gov or 440-391-4832 to learn more, or visit volunteer.kab.org to sign up. We had great success last year and hope to continue our efforts this year!

Saturday, May 15

Saturday, June 5 - Big Creek Connects Clean Up

Sunday, June 13

Saturday, July 24

Saturday, August 14

Sunday, August 29

Saturday, September 11

Sunday, October 3

Saturday, October 16



Coyote Awareness

What are some precautions I can take to minimize any risk of a coyote going after my dog?

Research shows coyotes try to avoid humans if given the opportunity. However, people provide food sources that attract them into yards. Pet food, compost, gardens, bird feeders, garbage, and the abundance of squirrels and chipmunks in our yards can result in more coyotes in neighborhoods than are in natural areas. Think about food resources that you (and your neighbors) may have in your yard and remove them so coyotes don't have a reason to come there for food. At night, turn lights on before you let pets out. Outside your yard, keep pets on a leash.

Dogs can be viewed as a threat during the breeding season and when coyote pups are vulnerable (January through April). If you are outside of your yard and come across a coyote that stands its ground and does not run away, you should consider that they are good parents and may have a den or pups nearby. In these situations, coyotes can view barking dogs as threats to their mate or pups.

When is it the right time to get Animal Control or another agency involved?

If you notice a coyote that appears sickly, such as fur loss or lethargic behavior, please contact your local Animal Control at 216-635-4291 to check it out!

Thank you to Jon Cepek, an ecologist and coyote expert from the Cleveland Metroparks for providing this information. Edited for space. ●



Infrastructure Investments

With over \$1.1 million in asphalt projects this year, road work will begin on the following streets this spring and will be completed in the fall: Winter Lane, Memphis Villas South, Brookport Drive, Summer Lane, Montgomery Place and West 74th street.

The construction of the Memphis Bridge by Kiddie Park is underway. The contractor, Independence Excavating, is working on relocating the utilities to include watermain and electric. The anticipated start date of the bridge work will be April 2021 with a completion date in the fall or winter of 2022.

The Memphis-Tiedeman Turn Lane project is anticipated to be constructed early Spring 2022. The city has applied for and been approved for partial funding of \$210,000 from the County 50/50 Program. We are finalizing plans and anticipate bidding the project out in late 2021 or early 2022. This project will enhance the turning movements of traffic that is eastbound on Memphis turning to southbound Tiedeman and also northbound Tiedeman turning to westbound Memphis.

As with all construction projects, we urge the public to have patience. ●

City to Purchase Blighted Properties

Continuing with efforts to remove blighted properties, the city has focused its attention on acquiring adjacent vacant properties on Memphis Avenue. The city recently closed on the purchase of the former Up to Bat baseball and softball training facility at 8707 Memphis Avenue. The property had been vacant for a number of years and, due to zoning issues, was unlikely to be repurposed.

Acquiring the former Up to Bat property also presented an opportunity to preserve additional land along Stickney Creek. West Creek Conservancy was recently awarded \$75,000 through the Clean Ohio Fund to purchase land along Stickney Creek for the purpose of placing the acquired areas under permanent conservation easement. Part of the grant funding will be utilized to purchase approximately four acres of land in the rear portion of 8707 Memphis Avenue. By placing this area under permanent conservation easement, West Creek Conservancy and the city will be preserving environmentally sensitive land adjacent to Stickney Creek and protecting the ravine against further erosion.

The city, in partnership with the Brooklyn Community Improvement Corporation (CIC), is moving forward with acquiring the former Speedway training center at 8519 Memphis Avenue. This property has been vacant for several years and has limited potential for redevelopment due to environmental covenants limiting its reuse. The city will provide the CIC with the funds required to complete the purchase, while the CIC will hold title to the property.

Once the former Speedway property is officially acquired, the city will move forward with razing structures on both properties and begin the process of determining the highest and best use for this area. ●



Brooklyn's original town hall, built in 1902 on Memphis.

A mid-1960s Easter egg hunt behind the municipal building and fire station, which were joined a decade later.

The House the People Built

With plans well under way for the Brooklyn civic center project, which will feature a gleaming new municipal center and police station across Memphis Avenue from our current city hall, we have reason to look optimistically to a modern government campus and the addition of some open space to Memorial Park.

But we pause our hopeful look ahead to pay homage to the seats of Brooklyn's past and present governments—our old town, village and city halls through history.

Village Mayor Orwell Kresge in the old town hall, circa 1942. A mayor's court trial was postponed once because the building was surrounded by fields of ragweed and Kresge suffered from hay fever.



It took nearly a century for Brooklyn Township to build its first fixed town hall, which was erected in 1902 on Memphis just to the east of our current city hall. Cleveland water began serving the building in 1923—it cost a whopping \$146 to install the new water line—but the furnishings were spartan: even 40 years after its construction, the old town hall still didn't have adequate sanitary facilities.

By that time, Brooklyn Village had emerged from the old township, and it was just a few years away from becoming a city. The town hall did not improve with age and, in 1947, all village government operations were moved to offices within the village's fire station—currently the site of the easternmost portion of the current city hall complex fronting Memphis, and now used primarily as a storage site and the police station.

Plans began for a new municipal building when a 32-year-old John M. Coyne was first elected mayor in 1948, and in 1951—the same year the city approved an applicant's request to build a new amusement park for children on Memphis, with plans to call it "Kiddy Land"—construction began on the new city hall, which opened two years later. That 1953 building is now the westernmost portion of the current city hall complex, housing the building department, the finance department and the mayor's court.

In 1974, still under Coyne's watchful eye, the old fire station and newer city hall building were joined by a center portion of city hall that now houses the mayor's office, several additional municipal offices and the City Council chambers.

Built in pieces over many decades, the entire municipal complex today is showing its age—outmoded, unarguably in some disrepair and barely toeing the line with respect to accessibility for all citizens. We have many reasons, then, to be hopeful for the next seat of municipal government. It will soon stand proudly on the south side of Memphis, watching over the very last vestige of the original 1902 town hall—a solitary set of brick steps quietly greeting passers-by. It will be a forward-looking counterpoint to our storied history as a township, a village and the city we call home. ●

Heritage Home Program Offers Assistance



The Heritage Home Program has partnered with the city of Brooklyn, Cuyahoga County and the Cleveland Restoration Society to help provide funds to residents for the purpose of modernizing older homes and making energy efficiency improvements.

The Heritage Home Program is planning to have several popular presentations available on their website. They are scheduling general and specific Zoom presentations throughout the spring and summer. Each presentation is centered on a specific topic with time at the end for questions and answers with Heritage Home Program staff.

General information sessions will be March 24; April 14 and 28; May 12 and 26; June 9 and 23; July 14 and August 11.

This year's presentations include:

- **Rehab 101** – April 21
- **Wood Windows: Repair or Replace** – August 18
- **Guide to Researching Your Home** – May 19
- **NEW! Maintaining Your Home's Exterior** – June 23
- **NEW! Historic Districts 101** – July 21

Postcards with the presentation schedule will be mailed to each eligible household.

For more information, please visit heritagehomeprogram.org or call 216-426-3116. ●

Accolades to Members of Our Police Department

Congratulations to Cindy Eschweiler for her promotion to the rank of Lieutenant on October 26, 2020. Adam McQuaid was promoted to Sergeant on November 8, 2020 and Officer Brett Dalton was also assigned to the Detective Bureau on January 18, 2021. Good luck to all three serving in their new positions.

Best wishes to Officer Tony Psota, who retired January 22, 2021 after 17-plus years with the Police Department. Psota received several commendations for his bravery on the job. He issued thousands of traffic citations, represented the department as a motorcycle officer, and trained fellow officers in radar, lidar and taser certifications.

Congratulations to Reanna Verian, who will graduate from Cleveland State University College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences this spring and is in contention for the academic achievement of valedictorian. Verian, a 2019 Brooklyn High School graduate, began interning in the Mayor's Court in the summer of 2018. Through her work and experience with the city, she was hired as a part-time law enforcement clerk while attending college. Verian also attended and graduated from the Cleveland State FBI Academy in 2019. ●



Lieutenant
Cindy Eschweiler



Officer
Brett Dalton



Reanna Verian

New Hire for the Fire Department

The City of Brooklyn welcomed David Haffner to the Brooklyn Fire Department on December 9, 2020. Haffner, a 2017 North Royalton graduate, attended fire school at the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center and got his EMT and Medic card at Tri-C. He worked part time at Seven Hills and Independence prior to being hired in Brooklyn. ●



David Haffner

Free Fresh Produce



Baba's Yard, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in conjunction with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, will be offering free fresh produce. The event will be held on the fourth Tuesday of every month, April through October 2021, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the St. Elias Church parking lot, located at 8023 Memphis Avenue. Please do not arrive prior to 3:30 p.m. For more information, please email babasyard@gmail.com. ●

City Zoning Code to Get Update

Having a modern and user-friendly Planning and Zoning Code is key to promoting desirable development. Much of Brooklyn's current code was adopted in 1992, with some important development issues addressed in a piecemeal fashion over the past 30 years, or not being addressed at all.

For example, the code does not allow for modern mixed-use districts or require sustainable development practices. Brooklyn is a built-out community, and yet the current code doesn't specifically address issues related to adaptive reuse or redevelopment of existing properties. Many of the city's existing commercial and industrial centers include acres of pavement and buildings; reflecting past planning practices that often approved development without consideration of greenspace, green infrastructure, and other modern provisions that can help beautify and protect environmental quality.

For these reasons, the Master Plan suggests the city undertake a process to rewrite the Planning and Zoning Code. The city recently issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an all-inclusive review, update and rewrite of its Planning and Zoning Code as well as the zoning map, which will be revised to correlate with the new code. The goal is to have a consultant under contract in early spring.

Please keep an eye out for announcements about opportunities to provide thoughts and feedback as the project moves forward. ●

Hello

From the Brooklyn Senior Center

Although our building remains closed due to Covid-19, we are here in our office taking calls Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you need assistance with grocery shopping or if you are in need of food, please call us at 216-635-4222. Our bus transportation is running at a limited capacity due to Covid-19, but we are still taking people to doctor appointments and essential shopping.

We know this has been a rough time for all of our seniors. In an effort to have some fun and still keep everyone safe, we are planning some outdoor events in the Grande Pavilion. All members are welcome! Not a member? No worries. Call us to sign up at 216-635-4222. You must be 55 years or older. There is no cost for residents. You will be added to our database to receive calls with upcoming events and information. Once our doors are open, you can come in and get your membership card. Please note that all events will be kept at a social distance and require a mask to participate.

OUTDOOR AND DRIVE UP EVENTS

"Spring Get-Together at a Distance" in the Grand Pavilion on Wed., May 19 from 12 to 2 p.m. Come up and bring your lawn chair or sit in the pavilion. The city will provide free hot dogs, chips and cold drinks. We will play some bingo games for prizes. Our virtual bingo host, Roy from Devoted Health Plans, will be on site calling the games. Space is limited, so call us to sign up between April 26 and May 10.

Free Afternoon Concert of Polka Music and American Favorites: "The Wayne Tomsic Trio" will play in the Grande Pavilion on Wed., June 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. It will be a toe-tapping, foot-stomping good time. Bring your own lawn chairs, please. Call to reserve your spot between Tue., June 1 and Fri., June 11. Coffee and donuts provided.

Drive-Up Ice Cream Social – Wed., July 14 from 1 to 2 p.m. You can remain in your car or get your ice cream and park to enjoy the nice weather in the Pavilion or on our patio. Social distancing and masks are required. Ice cream is being provided by Brooklyn Pointe Assisted Living and Memory Care. Call to reserve your spot between Mon., June 28 and Fri., July 9.

Beach Blanket Bingo – Wed., Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Come and play a game or two of bingo while we take a trip down memory lane with some music from the 60's. Roy of Devoted Health Plans will again be hosting the bingo and we will rock out with some good tunes and enjoy some light refreshments. Call between Mon., Aug. 2 and Fri., Aug. 12 to reserve your spot.

VIRTUAL EVENTS HEALTH PRESENTATIONS

Devoted Health Talks - Topic:

"Aging Gracefully" – Tue., May 25 at 2 p.m. A Devoted to Your Health Series. Log in at meet.google.com/bra-mhec-vpd or call in by phone at 317-936-9683. When prompted, put in the pin number: 297 806 259#

MetroHealth Virtual Health Talks –

MetroHealth is offering a number of great health presentations that you can join. View present and past health talk presentations on various topics at metrohealth.org/virtual-health-talks

Virtual Bingo – Hosted by Roy Avery from Devoted Health. Dates: Tue., March 23 at 2 p.m.; Tue., May 25 at 2 p.m.; and Tue., June 22 at 2 p.m. All games are played and over in one hour. Call to save your spot at least one week prior to the date at 216-906-9295. Instructions will be given on when to pick up your bingo bag. Play by going online or call in to play by cell or land line phone.

No Reader Left Behind: Book Buzz –

A virtual discussion on the latest books coming out this summer presented by Cuyahoga Public Library on Mon., May 17 from 7 to 8 p.m. Log in at: attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/4833933 ●

Recreation Hoping to Spring Back into Action



As 2020 brought a halt to several programs and scheduled projects, the Recreation Department staff, along with city administration, hope to resume development of the parks and certain facility updates.

One project on the schedule to begin is Phase II of the Marquardt Park revitalization project. This phase will include a newly renovated restroom facility and fitness area by the old pavilion, along the walking path. The restroom will receive a heavy makeover and the new look will be consistent with the other changes in the park. The fitness equipment to be installed can be utilized by people of all ages. These amenities are in addition to the newly installed playground feature and shade shelter to be open in spring 2021 as part of Phase I.

Safety Town is on schedule to run in August 2021 in partnership with the Brooklyn Police and Fire Departments and Brooklyn City Schools. BRC staff and volunteer groups are currently constructing the buildings to be included on the course and we expect to paint the layout in the spring. A ceremony to officially open the course in late summer is expected. Keep an eye out for details on this event.

A long-anticipated project, the steam room in the natatorium, is scheduled to be renovated in spring of 2021. This will include removing all tile and fixtures and updating the lighting and steam feature itself. The interior will be completely updated and new benches will be installed.

The Stickney Creek stream restoration project will be in progress during the spring of 2021 and possibly into early summer. This will be exciting to view and track the transformation of the stream banks and watch the newly planted trees and vegetation take root to beautify the area. This project will help to revitalize and solidify a heavily used park space and natural greenery area in our park system.

Beginning in March, the Brooklyn Recreation Department will be launching a new website at brooklynrec.com. The new site will allow for easy account setup and access, membership purchase and renewal, as well as a streamlined program registration and facility reservation interface. If you need help setting up your account or membership, contact us at 216-351-5334 or email recinfo@brooklynohio.gov.

Home Maintenance Grant

The City of Brooklyn is committed to maintaining a vibrant housing stock and strong property values. That is why we are excited to offer the **Exterior Home Repair & Bathroom Addition Grant** for 2021!

This year, you can apply for one of three grants the city will offer:

Bathroom Addition Grant—up to \$5,000 to add an additional full bathroom

Exterior Maintenance Grant—up to \$3,000 to make exterior repairs and improvements

Landscaping Grant—up to \$1,000 to improve front yard landscaping

Program Guidelines:

- The property must be the owner's primary residence
- Homeowners must be current on property taxes
- Any cost over the grant award amount is the homeowner's responsibility
- Contractors who are performing work must be registered and pull required permits
- Only single-family owner-occupied properties are eligible
- One grant application per household
- Prior year grant recipients are ineligible
- Incomplete applications will not be considered
- If you have a current housing violation, the grant funds must correct that violation

Applications will only be accepted from March 16 through May 17, 2021.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

For more information, please contact Dawn Neal in the Building Department at dneal@brooklynohio.gov or 216-635-4203.



MOVING FORWARD. **TOGETHER.**

Community **Shred Day**

Bring your bags or boxes of documents to be shredded on **Saturday, April 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Recreation Center West Parking Lot, located at 7600 Memphis Avenue.**

Shred It will be on site to shred all white paper, financial and legal documents, tax and medical records, receipts, ledger paper, envelopes, greetings cards and junk mail. You do not have to remove staples or paper clips, but you must take the work out of the binders and notebooks. Proof of residency will be required. There is no limit on the amount of bags to be shredded.

Not Accepted: Newspapers, magazines, phone books, binders, books, photos, Styrofoam containers, food, candy wrappers and folders. ●



Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Provides **Scholarships**

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce will be offering **one** post-secondary scholarship in the amount of **\$1,000** and **two** scholarships in the amount of **\$500 each**.

The first scholarship will be awarded to a graduating Brooklyn High School senior who currently resides in the City of Brooklyn and will be attending a recognized college or university full time in the fall. The other scholarships will be available to any Brooklyn High School senior who is a Brooklyn or Old Brooklyn resident and will be attending a recognized college or university full time in the fall.

Deadline for submission is April 9. Visit www.brooklynohiochamber.org, call 216-635-4297 or email exec@brooklynohiochamber.org for further details. ●

